India's Utilisation Quota

1601. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's utilisation quota during first four months of the calendar year has slowed as there is a modest improvement in unit value realisation of exports;

(b) whether according to Apparel Export Promotion Council during period January-April, 2004, the utilisation of quota *vis-a-vis* January-April, 2003 went down by 13.80 per cent from 46.74 per cent to 39.74 per cent;

(c) if so, whether in the case of US, the single biggest export out let to India shows a decrease of 11.27 per cent and in European yarns the total utilisation was an increase of 22.37 per cent and in Canada a decrease of 11.97 per cent; and

(d) if so, what are the steps that Government propose to improve textile exports quota utilisation which has shown a downward trend in January-April, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Apparel Export Promotion Council, the overall quota utilisation and unit value realization during January-April, 2004 for readymade garment exports to US, EU and Canada is given below:

Country	Year	%age Utilisation	%age increase/ decrease	Unit Value	%age increase/ decrease
USA	2003	40.98	—	4.72	—
	2004	36.36	-11.27	4.57	-3.18
EU	2003	66.33	—	3.71	—
	2004	47.50	-16.68	4.54	22.37
Canada	2003	26.47	—	1.92	—
	2004	22.42	-11.97	2.16	12.50
TOTAL	2003	46.10	—	4.07	—
	2004	39.74	-13.80	4.43	8.85

(d) Government has been taking continuous measures for increasing quota utilization, which include release of additional quantities under the First Come First Serve (FCFS)/Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) systems; recycling of unutilized and surrendered quantities under the FCFS/RGE pool; invocation of normal and exceptional flexibilities, simplifying and rationalizing procedures regarding Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), transferability and validity of quotas etc. Besides, the Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking regular export promotion measures to step up exports of textile and clothing items, including quota items to quota countries.

Functioning of testing laboratories under CSB in Karnataka

1602. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many testing laboratories under Central Silk Board are functioning in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more testing laboratories to avoid delays in the mandatory testing of silk imported from China; and

(c) if so, how many new testing laboratories proposed to be set up in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Two testing laboratories are functioning under the Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) of Central Silk Board in Karnataka. As the raw silk testing facilities available in these laboratories are considered adequate to handle testing of imported silk, at present there is no proposal to set up more testing laboratories.

New scheme for textile workers

1603. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a new scheme aimed at development and welfare of the textile sector workers and augmenting the employment opportunities in the sector;

(b) if so, what are the details with allocations made for implementation of the scheme; and